

Application No. :10/055,440

Title: ROTATIONALLY MOLDED SEPTIC TANK WITH RISER

Amendment Responsive to Office Action dated: October 21, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A subterranean tank assembly for storing liquid below grade, said tank assembly comprising:

a vessel having a vessel wall of molded synthetic resin material defining a liquid-receiving chamber therein and at least one portal projecting generally upwardly from the vessel wall and presenting an opening for gaining access to the chamber, said portal including a rim having a substantially horizontal circumferentially extending closure surface in surrounding relationship to the opening and an inwardly tapering receiving surface;

a cover of synthetic resin material; and

a riser of synthetic resin material for coupling to and elevating the cover to a position at or above grade and positioned intermediate said rim and said cover, said riser being substantially tubular and presenting a normally upright longitudinal axis and including a normally bottommost connector portion adapted for coupling to said rim, said connector portion also including an inwardly tapering surface complementally configured for mating with said receiving surface of said vessel in sealing engagement, a normally topmost connector portion adapted for coupling to said cover, at least one continuous and uninterrupted cylindrical riser wall, and a plurality

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of axially spaced continuous and circumscribing ribs positioned radially outward of said riser wall, each of said ribs including a pair of substantially horizontal flanges radially oriented in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis of the riser and connecting said ribs to said riser wall, said flanges each being complementally sized and configured relative to said rim whereby said a circumscribing cut through one of said ribs or said riser wall adjacent said flange will reduce the longitudinal length of said riser and whereby the remaining, normally bottommost flange of the riser may be coupled to the rim in sealing engagement.

2. (original) A subterranean tank assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cover includes an interior wall surface having at least one lug oriented substantially radially inwardly and said rim includes an outer wall surface having at least one recess complementally configured to receive said lug.

3. (original) A subterranean tank assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said rim includes a circumferentially extending elastomeric seal surrounding said opening and positioned for engagement with either said bottommost connector portion or, when said bottommost connector portion has been removed from said riser, the bottommost flange of the riser.

4. (original) A subterranean tank assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein said rim includes a circumferentially extending slot for receiving a part of said seal therein.

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5. (Withdrawn) A cover integrally molded of synthetic resin and adapted for interfitting to a portal of a subterranean tank, said cover comprising:

an upper wall; and

a lower wall, wherein said upper wall and lower wall are interconnected along a circumferentially extending outer edge, at least a part of said lower wall being spaced from at least a part of said upper wall to define a cavity therebetween.

6. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 5, wherein the upper wall includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced depressions adjacent to the edge.

7. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 6, wherein the upper wall and lower wall are interconnected and unitary along at least a portion of said indentations.

8. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 5, wherein said lower wall includes a circumferentially extending frustoconically shaped mating surface radially inward of the outer edge.

9. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 8, wherein said mating surface includes a plurality of radially inwardly extending, circumferentially spaced lugs.

10. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 5, wherein said lower wall includes at least one depression extending toward said upper wall, said lower wall and said upper wall being interconnected and unitary along at least a portion of said at least one depression.

11. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 10, wherein said at least one depression includes a plurality of said depressions.

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12. (Withdrawn) A cover as set forth in claim 11, where said plurality of depressions are elongated and radially extending to present a plurality of radially extending peaks where said upper and lower walls are unitary.

13. (Withdrawn) A vessel adapted for receiving and retaining liquid therein, said vessel including:

an elongated bottom wall;

first and second longitudinally spaced end walls integrally formed with said bottom wall; and

an elongated top wall integrally formed with and connected to said bottom wall and first and

second end walls to define an enclosed chamber, said top wall being substantially

parabolic viewed in vertical cross-section.

14. (Withdrawn) A vessel as set forth in claim 13, wherein said chamber extends along a longitudinal axis and said top wall includes a plurality of corrugations and connecting walls alternating with said corrugations which are substantially parabolic when viewed in vertical cross section perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

15. (Withdrawn) A vessel as set forth in claim 14, wherein said top wall includes a plurality of portals sized for permitting the entrance of a human into said chamber, said portals extending substantially vertically from at least one of said corrugations.

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16. (Withdrawn) A vessel as set forth in claim 15, wherein said bottom wall is substantially horizontal and said corrugations and alternating connecting walls extend through said bottom wall to substantially circumscribe said vessel in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

17. (Withdrawn) A vessel adapted for receiving and retaining liquid therein, said vessel including:

an elongated bottom wall;

first and second longitudinally spaced end walls integrally formed with said bottom wall; and

an elongated top wall integrally formed with and connected to said bottom wall and first and

second end walls to define an enclosed chamber, said top wall including at least one

portal sized to admit the entry of a human into said chamber, said portal including a

rim having a substantially frustoconically shaped upwardly and radially inwardly

extending receiving surface.

18. (Withdrawn) A vessel as set forth in claim 17, wherein said receiving surface includes at least one recess therein.

19. (Withdrawn) A vessel as set forth in claim 18, further including a cover sized and configured for mounting to said rim of said portal, said cover including a frustoconically shaped surface thereon complementally configured with said receiving surface for fitting said cover onto said portal.

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20. (Withdrawn) A vessel as set forth in claim 19, wherein said frustoconically shaped surface of said cover includes at least one lug sized and configured for receipt in said slot of said receiving surface of said rim, whereby said lug may lockingly engage said recess for holding said cover on said rim.